

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 17, 2004, claims 5, 8, 9, 15, 18, 19, 25, 28, and 29 have been amended. Claims 1-30 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (1)-(2) of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 6, 8-11, 14, 16, 18-21, 24, 26, and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) and U.S. Patent No. 6,039,047 to Rock et al. (Rock). In paragraph (3) of the Office Action, claims 2-3, 5, 12-13, 15, 22-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of AAPA, Rock, and U.S. Patent No. 6,335,745 to Amro et al. (Amro). In paragraph (4) of the Office Action, claims 7, 17, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA, Rock, and Microsoft Word 2000 (Word).

A. Claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 21, 24, and 26 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

The independent claims were rejected as follows:

Referring to claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 21, 24, and 26, the AAPA teaches a method, article of manufacture, and system for collapsing ("minimizing") a dialog window of an application that displays a complete dialog window of a currently active application (i.e., Fig. 1) on a display device, determines a location of a cursor with respect to the dialog window (i.e., if the cursor is over minimize button 108), displays a collapsed version of the dialog window, wherein the collapsed version of the dialog window consumes a smaller area of the display device than the complete dialog window, and displays the complete dialog window when the cursor moves within the collapsed version of the dialog window (i.e., when the cursor moves within the collapsed version of the dialog window (i.e., when the cursor selects the "maximize option within the minimized dialog window). See page 4, line 22-page 5, line 13.

The AAPA teaches collapsing a dialog window when a minimize button is pressed and not when a cursor is simply moved outside of the complete dialog window without additional action. The AAPA also does not teach displaying the complete dialog window when the cursor is moved within the collapsed version without additional action. However, Rock teaches a method of resizing a control region (col. 4, lines 4-14) when a cursor is moved outside of the control region (col. 1, lines 20-32 and col. 3, lines 47-51) such that the control region is made smaller upon the cursor moving outside of the region and larger upon the cursor moving inside the control region. Since collapsing is a type of resizing and a dialog window is a type of control region, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the dialog window of the AAPA such that the collapsing occurs upon the cursor moving outside of the dialog window as taught by Rock in order to provide a simple

and efficient way to make the dialog window (control region) less distracting as supported by Rock without requiring the dexterity to select a small "minimize button".

Applicant traverses the above rejections. Specifically, neither the AAPA nor Rock teach, disclose or suggest a dialog window that can be collapsed through cursor movement as claimed. Firstly, the claims provide for merely moving the cursor outside of the complete dialog window to cause the collapsed version of the dialog window to display. Further, merely moving the cursor within the collapsed version of the dialog window causes the complete dialog window to display. As set forth in both the independent and dependent claims, no buttons on either the complete dialog window or collapsed dialog window need to be depressed or selected. The AAPA, as admitted in the Office Action, requires the user to select a minimize button or a maximize button to cause the collapsing or expansion of the dialog windows. Accordingly, the AAPA fails to teach this aspect of the invention. The Office Action agrees with such a lack of teaching in the AAPA and therefore relies on Rock to teach this element.

The Office Action attempts to equate the dialog window and collapsed dialog window of the invention with the control region of Rock. However, Applicant submits that Rock's control region is not similar or even remotely equivalent to the claimed dialog window or collapsed dialog window. Rock's control region is specifically defined in col. 2, lines 34-51:

...As used herein, the term "control region" refers to an area of the display device 110 that is associated with a function that can be performed in conjunction with a medical image. Functions that can be associated with control regions include, but are not limited to, presenting next/previous medical images, loading patient data associated with a medical image, printing a medical image, changing the display format of a medical image, indicating whether a medical image has been reviewed, deleting a medical image, archiving a medical image, editing a medical image, and accessing other display screens. The user can select a control region, for example, by positioning a pointer over the control region and indicating a selection (e.g., clicking a mouse button) or by merely positioning the pointer over the control region. Images (such as a symbol or icon) and/or text can be displayed in the control region to allow the user to identify which function will be performed upon selection of the control region.

Thus, as described in Rock, the control region is an area of the display that is associated with a function that can be performed in conjunction with a medical image. The present specification defines a dialog box/window on page 2, line 17-page 3, line 2:

A dialog box/window is a secondary window that allows the user to interact with an application in ways that supplement the task in the main/primary window. For example, dialog boxes may be used to control the properties of an object, to request further information from the user or to notify the user of an event. Specific examples include a dialog box that enables users to set preferences or choose a file from the hard disk. A dialog box can contain panes and panels, text, graphics, controls (such as checkboxes, radio buttons, or sliders), and/or one or more command

buttons. Dialog boxes may be implemented in a variety of different forms, suitable for different situations, and each with their own user interface implications.

The specification further continues to describe modal or modeless dialog windows/boxes and alert or informational dialog boxes (see page 3, lines 3-22). In addition, The Computer Language Company Inc., Copyright (©) 1981-2004 available at <http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia/defineterm.html?term=dialog+box> defines a dialog box as:

A movable window that is displayed on screen in response to the user selecting a menu option. It provides the current status and available options for a particular feature in the program. Dialog boxes are typically small, but depending on the amount of information that must be conveyed, they can sometimes be large.

As can be seen by this text, Rock's control region is not equivalent to a dialog box or dialog window. Rock's control region is not a window and is not movable. Further, Rock's control region is specifically used to perform functions for a medical image. The present invention is not related to, nor is the claimed dialog window directed towards medical devices. In this regard, contrary to that suggested in the Office Action, a dialog window is not a type of control region. A dialog window is not limited to medical devices and may not be associated with a function that can be performed in conjunction with a medical image (as required in Rock). Accordingly, Applicant submits that neither the AAPA, Rock, nor the combination teaches, discloses, or suggests the invention.

B. Claims 8, 18, and 28 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action suggests that the time it takes for a machine to recognize the cursor is outside of the region/window meets the limitation of the minimum time period. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such an interpretation. Nonetheless, to more clearly distinguish the claims, Applicant has amended these claims to indicate that the time period is a defined time period. Since Rock's time to take the machine to recognize the cursor is outside of the region/window is not a specifically defined time period, Both Rock and the AAPA fail to teach the amended claim limitations.

C. Claims 9, 19, and 29 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relied on the AAPA and the minimize button. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The prior claims did not merely provide for a selectable icon that can be used to collapse the dialog window. Instead, the selectable system icon controlled the ability to display the collapsed version of the dialog window. In other words, the icon controlled whether or not the window could be minimized at all through cursor movement.

To more accurately reflect the "ability", Applicant has amended the claims. The amended claims now provide that when the icon is selected as active, the ability to display the collapsed version of the dialog window through further cursor movement is active. Similarly, the claims also provide that if the icon is not selected and is inactive, the dialog window is displayed and the ability to collapse the window through further cursor movement is disabled. Thus, as claimed, further cursor movement beyond the mere selection of the icon is now required. Further, the icon merely indicates whether or not the dialog window is capable of being collapsed through such cursor movement.

In view of the amendments and the clear distinctions and differences between the AAPA, Rock, and the claims, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance.

D. Claims 2-3, 12-13, and 22-23 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action submitted that Amro's icons in Fig. 4, item 114 were equivalent to the claimed system buttons. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Item 114 in Fig. 4 are application icons (see col. 5, line 58). While an icon is a graphic representation, it is certainly not a button and is not a system button as used in the claims. The claims specifically provide that the collapsed version of the dialog window comprises a size that exactly encompasses a title of the dialog window and system buttons. Amro completely fails to show any buttons whatsoever in the dialog window. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over the cited references.

E. Claims 5, 15, and 25 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action relied on Amro to teach that the system buttons are in the same position within the graphical selection area. The claims have been amended to more

clearly illustrate that the system buttons are in the same position with respect to the overall screen display (and not the particular location within the dialog window itself) when they are collapsed. As clearly set forth in the specification (see page 11, lines 1-14) and required in the amended claims, the dialog window may collapse so that the system buttons do not move away from the cursor when the dialog window collapses or expands. Accordingly, the use of the system buttons is more easily conducted. Such amendments clearly differentiate the cited references.

The Office Action further states that Amro's description that the location of the graphical selection may vary implies that it may be programmed to remain in the same position. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The context of the paragraph cited (col. 7, lines 31-42) provides for which menu will be displayed above another window. The text then states that "the position of the graphical selection area 102 may vary." However, varying a position of a window can be conducted by a user moving the window. Further, there is no description, indication, suggestion, implicit or explicit, that such varying graphical selection means that a programmer can make sure the window remains in the same position when a window is collapsed or expanded. Applicant submits that Amro did not even contemplate such a teaching whatsoever. Further, such an interpretation is well beyond the scope of Amro's teaching.

The Office Action then continues and states that keeping the same location for the buttons provides the ability to maintain consistency in the placement of the buttons to easily find the appropriate button/function within the collapsed view. Applicant appreciates the indication of the benefits of Applicant's invention. However, Amro completely fails to indicate or suggest the invention as claimed or such an advantage or desire. Accordingly, the invention is not obvious in view of Rock, the AAPA, Amro, or any combination thereof.

Moreover, the various elements of Applicant's claimed invention together provide operational advantages over the cited references. In addition, Applicant's invention solves problems not recognized by any of the cited references.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent 1, 11, and 21 are allowable over the cited references. Further, dependent claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 are submitted to be allowable over the cited references in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 11, and 21 respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition,

dependent claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 recite additional novel elements not shown by the cited references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

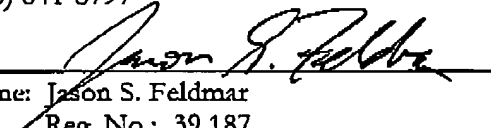
Respectfully submitted,

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